



Navy Environmental Quality Fact Sheet



Do you dispose of hazardous waste contaminated 55-gallon drums?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meet environmental compliance regulations.** Eliminate or reduce the disposal of hazardous waste contaminated 55-gallon drums. Media area is hazardous waste.
- **Improve workers' safety and health.** Reduce worker exposure to hazardous substances.
- **Increase productivity.** Reduce labor hours for storing and shipping of hazardous waste. Reduce the labor hours for new drum procurement.
- **Save money.** Reduce hazardous waste disposal costs. Save money by not having to buy new drums to replace the contaminated drums.



55-Gallon Drum Conditioner

Navy activities frequently collect hazardous waste from base operations using 55-gallon drums. These waste-containing drums are stored until the waste can be properly disposed. After pumping out the waste, the drums can be disposed of as solid waste if they are "emptied" as defined by 40 CFR 261.7, otherwise they are disposed of as hazardous waste. Instead of disposing as hazardous waste, these drums can be cleaned and reused. A drum conditioner triple-rinses the contaminated drums inside an enclosed chamber. It uses heated water with a detergent dispensing system and rinse cycle. The unit has both interior and exterior washing capability. Wastewater is then tested for hazardous contaminants. The unit has stainless steel construction, recirculating rinse tanks, and live steam capability. The drum conditioner was successfully tested at Navy Public Works Center at San Diego, California. This equipment is available through the Navy Pollution Prevention Equipment Program.

How can you achieve these improvements?

Use a drum conditioner to clean and reuse 55-gallon drums.

How does this equipment work?

A drum conditioner cleans and rinses contaminated drums. After cleaning, the drums can be reused.

How will this equipment save you money?

Contaminated drum disposal costs are eliminated, new drum procurement costs are reduced and less labor is required. Typically, this equipment will pay for itself in less than three years. The cost to implement is approximately \$30,000. For a complete cost analysis, refer to Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook Datasheet Number 7-III-10.



How can this technology eliminate or reduce pollution?

This technology can minimize or eliminate worker exposure to hazardous waste. Implementation will result in the following pollution reductions:

- Eliminate handling and transportation of hazardous waste contaminated 55-gallon drums.
- Reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated.

Which shops can benefit most from this technology?

A drum conditioner can be used in processes or shops that collect hazardous waste in 55-gallon drums. Typical shops include:

- Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office
- Hazardous Waste Transfer Stations

How can this technology reduce regulatory compliance concerns?

This technology minimizes hazardous waste generation and reduces liabilities associated with hazardous waste disposal. Use will result in the following regulatory compliance benefits:

- Reduction in hazardous waste helps facility meet the requirement of waste minimization under RCRA, 40 CFR 262.41 (a) (6).
- May help facilities reduce their generator status and lessen the tasks required to comply under RCRA, 40 CFR 262 (i.e., recordkeeping, reporting, inspections, transportation, accumulation time and emergency measures).

Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by using pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This fact sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to use pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

For additional information, contact:

Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook Data Sheet Number 7-III-10 (http://p2library.nfesc.navy.mil/P2_Opportunity_Handbook/7_III_10.html) and the PPEP Equipment Book (<http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil/p2/index.htm>)

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